

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.**

**The meeting was televised live and replayed on Washoe Channel at:**

**<https://www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/Communications/wctv-live.php> also on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WashoeCountyTV>**

**Kevin Joell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was in recess while technical difficulties were worked out.**

#### **1. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Kevin Joell, Timothy Dake, Lisa Rode, Neil Jones, Mariluz Garcia, Michaelangelo Aranda, Mariluz Garcia joined at 2:28pm.

**Staff Present:** Colleen Wallace Barnum, Eric Crump, Lindsey Liddell, Brandon Roman, Adriana Albarran, Faye-Marie Pekar, Dave Solaro

**Absent:** Nicholas Martin Kearney, Maxwell DiNatale, Miles Gertler, Mark Newman

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was recited by Commissioner Jones.

#### **3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 27, 2023**

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 27, 2023. Second by Commissioner Dake. Motion carried unanimously.

## **5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 26, 2023**

Correction to item 7 by Commissioner Dake, should state 25 years of service, not 2.

Correction to spelling of Commissioner Aranda's name in item 1.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 26, 2023, with the corrections.  
Second by Commissioner Aranda. Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Presentation and discussion by Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas on the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act.**

Assistant County Manager, Kate Thomas, gave the presentation and was available to answer questions or forward questions or concerns to the Senator's office.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question on the conservation designation, Ms. Thomas stated the Bureau of Land Management will continue to administer.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question about the acreage up for disposal, Ms. Thomas stated it will be put up for auction at no less than Fair Market Value and will be open to whomever wants to bid on those parcels.

In response to Chair Joell's question on the updated maps availability, Ms. Thomas stated they have not received the updated iterations, but encourages the public to go to [www.landsbill.org](http://www.landsbill.org) to receive updates but has been told can be updated soon.

In response to Chair Joell's question about Washoe County's letter of support, Ms. Thomas stated adopted resolutions by City of Sparks and Washoe County is supporting the direction is bill is headed and doesn't anticipate anything coming forward that would change the county commission's support but cannot speak for the City of Sparks. The City of Reno has not yet slated a resolution on their agenda, but the bill will be introduced with the City of Sparks and Washoe County's support.

**7. Acknowledgement and recognition of Park Operations staff for their outstanding service and contributions to Washoe County.**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, recognized Cody Brown, Park Maintenance Worker, Joanne Lowden, Natural Resource Planning Coordinator, Eduardo Ruiz Aguilar, Park Maintenance Worker for 5 years of service, and Andy Brown, Park Ranger for 20 years of service.

Chair Joell thanked staff for the continued service with Washoe County.

**8. Resolution to thank Jeff Patterson for his 10 years of service and contributions as the Washoe County District Park Manager for the South Region.**

Chair Joell read the resolution. Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent thanked Jeff for his hard work. Jeff thanked his staff for their hard work as well. Motion by Commissioner Aranda to approve the resolution to thank Jeff Patterson for his 10 years of service and contributions as the Washoe County District Park Manager for the South Region. Second by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

No public comment.

**9. Park/Program of the Month – Washoe County Trails Program, presented by Trails Program Coordinator Christina Thayer.**

Chair Joell stated that he and his company does trail work for Christina. Christina Thayer, Trails Program Coordinator gave a presentation on the program.

In response to Commissioner Jones' concerns about e-bikes being dangerous and being involved with injuries and fatalities, and a potential enforceable speed limit, Christina stated there is no easy answer, but working with other departments, to improve roadways with bicycle lanes to encourage use on pathways rather than trails, education and creating a culture of shared trail use can help. The issue is speed with all types of vehicles (scooters, skateboards, analog bikes, etc.) Commissioner Jones stated the transportation and Safety Board has stated fatalities have increased and that e-bike safety is a serious issue. Christina agreed and said

that she was open to suggestions. Chair Joell added that this is a difficult issue and it not an e-bike issue, but riders without training and safety education. Chair Joell suggested we will likely see more of this topic in front of the commissioner or in updated codes in the future.

Chair Joell also added that Washoe County staff has inherited decades of trails with poor planning and design and applauds the staff's effort to improve the trails and reduce the maintenance needs, Washoe County is the only jurisdiction with a Trails Program.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question on advertising Washoe County Trails to the public, Christina stated the website and interactive mapping has been updated, access to the information from NVTrailFinder.org and advertising with volunteer partners. Chair Joell added that All Trails is not recommended for trail information as it is user created and NVTrailFinder is vetted by the Landowners and Managers. Chair Joell also added that there is a Washoe County Trail Guide that may need to be updated but is available to the public.

## **10. Review and possible recommendation to approve an update to the donation policy including but not limited to language associated with material donations and plaques.**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave an overview of the policy that was available in Commissioner packets.

In response to Chair Joell's question about exceptions for large donations, such as a building or park, Colleen stated that there is a separate naming policy for those situations.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question on the existing memorials in parks, Colleen stated that existing plaques will be grandfathered in and the new policy would not apply and they would not be removed.

In response to Chair Joell's question about maintenance, Colleen stated staff currently does not maintain the plaques, the donor would be contacted to discuss repair or replacement.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve the updated to the donation policy, including but not limited to language associated with material donations and plaques. Second by Commissioner Dake. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Reno Disc Golf Association for the maintenance of the disc golf courses within Washoe County Parks (Rancho San Rafael Regional park, Sun Valley Regional Park, and South Valleys Regional Park) in exchange for Washoe County waiving fees associated with up to six disc golf events per year, for the term of 5 years commencing November 14, 2023, through November 14, 2028.**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, stated was unable to get a draft agreement approved by Reno Disc Golf so this item will be pushed to the next Open Space & Regional Parks Commission Meeting in November.

**12. Parks Reports**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave the updates. Sierra Performing Arts is currently performing The Addam's Family at Hawkin's Amphitheater. Several parks hosted the Truckee River Cleanup with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. Bower's Mansion will host Living History in October. There are also upcoming ranger walks, photo hikes and a junior ranger program that can also be done virtually. The Great Reno Balloon Race was hosted at Rancho San Rafael in September and was attended by thousands. The commissioners will receive an annual report from the May Museum. Ninety thousand people attended Dragon Lights Reno over the summer, which is more visitors than the park receives annually.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about the turkeys left at Rancho San Rafael, Colleen stated local ranchers loan their turkeys for their event.

Commissioner Aranda's thanked staff for the Ribbon Cutting event for the National Fitness Centers at Rancho San Rafael and South Valleys and thanked Renown for their support. Colleen stated several commissioners were in attendance and it was a great event.

### **13. Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager stated nothing occurred at the Board of County Commissioner Meetings for Parks. Dave shared a video with Sierra Nevada Journeys and Commissioner Garcia partnering at Sun Valley Regional Park.

Commissioner Dake thanked Commissioner Garcia and Sierra Nevada Journeys for taking the kids out there to learn respect for the parks.

In response to Chair Joell's question about the number of kids that had not been to Sun Valley Regional Park, Commissioner Garcia said the majority of the kids had not been to the park near their school or been on a hike. Commissioner Garcia stated a formal poll will be taken by the teachers and brought to the Commission.

### **14. Commissioner Request for future agenda items.**

Commissioner Dake requested an update on the Parks District with Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks.

### **15. Public Comments**

No public comment.

### **16. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

**Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Roebuck, Office Specialist**